

Defense AT&L *eLetter*



Acquisition Today for Tomorrow's Transformation

*Ken Krieg
Under Secretary of Defense (AT&L)*

Message from

January 2007

The Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics)

As an organization, it is our responsibility to provide our customers with the science and technology they need to achieve our national security goals. This is a large and complex task. We must balance the needs of today's fighting force with that of the future fighting force, while focusing on technologies that are more important to our warfighting capabilities.

Some technologies absolutely require American dominance, while others will not. We created the goal of [Focused Technology to Meet Warfighting Needs](#) to empower us to effectively meet our warfighters needs.

[continued...](#)

Acquisition Policy and Initiatives

Contingency Contracting practices have risen to the fore in both interest and importance in the United States since September 11, 2001. Lessons learned on contingency contracting operations supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Hurricane Katrina relief operations have emphasized the need for expanded contingency contracting policy. Many initiatives are ongoing in the Department and Joint Staff to aid our contingency contracting officers in enhancing our military capability. [Read more...](#)

Workforce Corner

Acquisition professionals work diligently and conscientiously and deserve recognition for their contributions. You can nominate an acquisition professional for an award to recognize his or her exceptional efforts, but act fast – nominations are due soon!

- [2007 Elmer B. Staats Young Acquisition Professional Excellence Award](#)
- [ESI International 2007 Contracting Award](#)

Job Support Tools

The following new **Continuous Learning modules** are available at the [DAU Continuous Learning Center](#) with both "**browse**" and "**register**" options:

- Contract Format and Structure for the DoD e-Business Environment (CLC 033)
- Defense Distribution (CLL 017)
- Contracting with Canada (CLC 050)

The **AT&L Knowledge Sharing System** is available on CD! The CD is designed for use in a non-internet environment, or in the event that the AKSS is not available online. Anyone in the AT&L community can obtain a CD in one of three easy ways: register on the [AKSS website](#) under "Order AKSS CD," send an email to issc@dau.mil, or call 703-805-4876.

continued...

Upcoming Events

[Total Asset Visibility for Defense](#), Jan 30-31, Arlington, VA

[Asset Management Conference and Expo](#), Feb 21-22, San Diego, CA

[DoD Standardization Conference](#), Mar 13-15, Arlington, VA

[23rd National Logistics Conference & Exhibition](#), Mar 19-22, Miami, FL

Technical Support

Questions or Comments

Defense AT&L eLetter and **Defense AT&L** magazine are separate publications with separate editorial staff. All comments and enquiries related to the *eLetter* should be addressed to ATL.eLetter@dau.mil.

[Back to Top](#)

Message from the Under Secretary (continued)

Under goal 3 in the [FY07 Implementation Plan](#), led by John Young, the Director of Defense Research & Engineering (DDR&E), we also stress the need for joint and interoperable resources. To effectively reach this goal, we should collaborate across the entire AT&L organization and with the Services to develop the strategic and operational capabilities necessary to support our men and women in uniform. We should leverage and compliment each others' efforts in research and engineering.

There is no single priority, capability or technology that constitutes a successful research and engineering program, but a number of priorities and a portfolio of technologies do support the National Security Strategy and the Quadrennial Defense Review. The resource decision process championed by DDR&E built support for those technologies we have begun to focus upon. This learning process – driven by strategy, informed by customer needs and technological opportunity – will be a central part of focusing technology to meet warfighting needs.

I encourage you to explore the [Research & Engineering Portal website](#), which provides up-to-date information about research and engineering programs at the Department of Defense.

[Back to Top](#)

Contingency Contracting Practices

Collectively, the Department has taken many actions resulting in improved solutions to support contingency contracting efforts. For example, the Department issued an interim rule creating a new FAR/DFARS Part 18, "Emergency Acquisitions" which provides flexibilities in current law and policy that can be used in an emergency and facilitates and expedites acquisition of supplies/services.

Additionally, the recent creation of the Emergency Procurement DFARS committee is helping to develop and implement initiatives that will allow our contingency contracting officers (CCO's) to perform their job in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner possible.

As part of this committee, a Joint Contingency Contracting Working Group is developing a Joint Contingency Contracting Guide which will be incorporated into DFARS Part 18, as well as creating a quick-reference, pocket-sized handbook for our CCO's. Both of these initiatives will be completed this spring.

Further, another working group is developing joint doctrine to ensure our contingency contracting troops have clear and unambiguous guidance in the field and to address joint policy on contingency contracting directed by the FY07 NDAA. A draft of the contingency contracting doctrine is expected by February 2007.

Recently, the department approved a Web-based database tool which will track contractors on the battlefield as well as allowing insight into contract capability. This will ensure the combatant commander has insight into available theater capabilities (visibility) as well as ensuring positive control of contractor personnel having direct impact on theater resources (accountability). To assist in the implementation of this tool, a Joint Logistics Test Case is on-going. The test case implementation plan focuses on how to improve, integrate, synchronize, and provide governance for the Logistics Services contingency contracting process with Joint Forces Deployment and Redeployment Operations in order to gain visibility of contracts and contractors on the battlefield. The final report and recommendations are due in May 2007.

To help our CCO's better understand the myriad of new initiatives, a [Joint Contingency Contracting Community of Practice](#) to promote knowledge sharing across organizational boundaries was created. This collaborative tool serves as a central repository for DoD contingency contracting learning and job support assets to include policy and guidance information, after action reports, pre-deployment information and related knowledge to promote increased job performance.

An on-line Contingency Contracting Officer Refresher Course was developed and is available in the Community of Practice. Just-in-time training has been conducted in Iraq and Afghanistan. A Joint Contingency Contracting Summit is held quarterly to foster innovative ideas and solutions to increase support to our warfighters, identify strategic partnership development opportunities and promote a strategic outreach and communication plan to increase awareness of these valuable tools and resources. These initiatives will ultimately ensure that contracted support continues to enhance our military capability.

[Back to Top](#)

**Procurement Round Table
2007 Elmer B. Staats
Young Acquisition Professional Excellence Award**

For the fifth year, the Procurement Round Table, in cooperation with the Senior Procurement Executives, will award **\$5,000** to a young federal acquisition professional who has contributed significantly to acquisition operations or acquisition policy:

* **Noteworthy contributions to acquisition operations include** extraordinary business leadership or team participation in the design, development, or execution of an acquisition program or project that furthers an agency's mission. Such contributions also include performance of any single task that merits special recognition because of its contribution to meeting an acquisition's cost, schedule, and performance goals.

* **Noteworthy contributions to acquisition policy include** the development of a management policy, regulation, data system, or other task that significantly enhances the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of an agency's acquisition system or the federal acquisition system.

To be eligible for the Young Acquisition Professional Excellence Award, candidates

- must have made a noteworthy contribution to acquisition operations or policy within 18 months of the due date for nominations;
- must have at least 5 years of civil or military service as a contracting officer, contract specialist, procurement analyst, or purchasing agent (1102 series); and
- must be no more than 37 years of age as of the due date for nominations.

Nominations must be submitted for the 2007 award by January 31, 2007. Each nomination must be approved by the Head of the Contracting Activity, describe the candidate's accomplishments in detail (but not exceed 3 pages), and include a summary of the accomplishment not exceeding 150 words. The nominations should be submitted on signed letterhead (original and one copy) to the:

**Procurement Round Table
Attn: Patrick Landis
901 North Glebe Road, Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22203
Questions may be sent to:
Judge Gary Krump
gkrump@rhoadsdc.com**

[Back to Top](#)

WIN \$5,000 WITH THE ESI INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTING AWARD!

Once again, in 2007, NCMA and ESI International, in cooperation with the contracting community, will award \$5,000 to a commercial or government contracts professional who has contributed significantly to acquisition operations or acquisition policy.

Noteworthy contributions to acquisition operations could include:

- Extraordinary business leadership or team participation in the design, development or execution of an acquisition program, project or contract that furthers an agency mission or company's business
- Any single task that merits special recognition because of its contribution to meeting an acquisition's cost, schedule and performance goals

Noteworthy contributions to acquisition policy could include:

- The development of a management policy, regulation, data system or other task that significantly enhances the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of an agency or company's acquisition system

Nominations for the ESI International 2007 Contracting Award must be submitted by February 23, 2007. For complete rules and regulations, visit <http://www.esi-intl.com/award>.

The nominations must be submitted on signed letterhead (original and one copy) to:

ESI International 2007 Contracting Award
Attn: John Peterson
ESI International
901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22203

Questions? E-mail: jpeterson@esi-intl.com

[Back to Top](#)

New Graduate Degree Courses Designed for AT&L Workforce

California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) announces that it will begin offering media-rich and completely online acquisition management courses. These courses can be applied toward CSUSB's Master's in Public Administration degree, or may be used as part of other educational programs with approval (Defense Acquisition University accreditation toward Level II is pending).*

The two online acquisition courses were developed to meet the needs of the AT&L workforce and boast a variety of cutting-edge media enhancements including video guest lectures, interactive learning exercises, simulations, and streaming audio and video. The two online acquisition courses are PA 618, "Government Systems Management, Acquisition, Contracting, and Capital Development" and PA 671, "Defense Acquisition Program Management."

PA 618 introduces the principles and concepts that underlie successful defense acquisition management, as well as major systems development and production. The course focuses on management of the acquisition process for defense systems from the development of an initial desired capability or need through design, development, production, fielding, sustainment, and disposal.

PA 671 builds on Defense acquisition program management theory presented in PA 618 and puts theory into practice by providing application skills needed in a program office or as an integrated product team (IPT) lead. If completed along with PA 618, the student will have completed the DAIWA Level II Program Management Certification academic requirements.

The course instructors have solid credentials and impressive professional experience. The many media enhancements not only enrich the learning experience, but they cater to various individual learning styles. Courses are presented in modular formats, with features such as streaming audio and video, simulations, and interactive web pages to facilitate surveys and testing. Director of Distributed Learning, Dr. Jim Monaghan, says "This use of multimedia allows us to tailor content to different learning styles, and research shows that it has a greater impact on learning."

Cal State San Bernardino's College of Extended Learning will administer and manage the two online courses, assisting participants with course registration and other student services. Dr. Jeet Joshee, dean of the College, states that "although we are part of a state university, our goal is to work very closely with executive participants to provide the high level of service people usually associate with private institutions." Because these programs are not operated through state university funding, they will be available to any qualified person for the same cost, regardless of residency status.

For more information on Cal State San Bernardino's online acquisition courses contact Michael-Anne Barner in the College of Extended Learning: mbarner@csusb.edu or call (909) 537-3907.

* DAU accreditation pending; elective courses can be applied towards a Master's in Public Administration at CSUSB or may be used as a part of other educational programs with the permission of the coordinator of graduate instruction.

[Back to Top](#)

[Technical Support](#)

[Questions or Comments](#)

Defense AT&L eLetter and **Defense AT&L** magazine are separate publications with separate editorial staff. All comments and enquiries related to the *eLetter* should be addressed to ATL.eLetter@dau.mil.